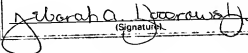


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Fredrickson et al.
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR PLACING FLUID
DROPLETS ONTO AN OBJECT
Appl. No.:
Filing Date:
Examiner:
Art Unit:

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PRELIMINARY RESPONSE

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

The present continuation application is filed in part in response to the Office Action mailed on August 6, 2003 which rejected originally filed Claims 1-4, 8-12, 16-21, 25-32 and 34-40 of parent Application Serial No. 10/142,631. Such rejected claims were either canceled or amended in the parent application to incorporate the limitations of objected to claims and any intervening claims so as to place the parent application in condition for allowance. The present continuation application is filed to continue pursuit of the originally filed claims that were rejected in the parent application.

The Office Action mailed on August 6, 2003 rejected each of originally filed Claims 1-4, 8-12, 16-21, 25-32 and 34-40 of parent application Serial No. 10/142,631 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomoyuki (JP 11-001001). For the reasons which follow, newly presented Claims 1-40 of the present continuation application are believed to be patentably distinct over Tomoyuki and are in condition for allowance.